

health care and, not surprisingly, he left his indelible mark in this arena as well.

Madam Speaker, at the age of 36, Mayer was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. After seeking successful experimental cancer treatments in New York, Mayer vowed that Mobile would one day have its own world-class cancer center.

And today, because of Mayer's vision and generosity—and that of the entire Mitchell family—the University of South Alabama, in alliance with the Mobile Infirmary Medical Center, is now home to a state-of-the-art cancer research institute, appropriately named the Mitchell Cancer Institute.

All in all, the Mitchell family holds the distinction of having given more to a single public university than any other family in the history of the state of Alabama.

Without a doubt, Mayer's philanthropy and leadership was legendary and recognized around the country and across the globe. When Mayer's name was on an invitation, a project or a cause, you knew with it came his own personal "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval." And if Mayer was on your side, you never, ever had to go back to him and ask if he was truly committed. Mayer's word was golden.

Mayer Mitchell was awarded the University of South Alabama National Alumni Associations' Distinguished Service Award in 2006. Other honors included: Outstanding Young Men of America; Jewish Welfare Fund Man of the Year; Prichard Honorary Citizen of the Year; Mobile County Realtor of the Year; and high honors from the Boy's Club of Mobile, Bishop State Community College; University of Rochester, New Orleans Chapter of Hadasah, Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, Mobile Kiwanis Club and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. In 2006, The University of Alabama inducted Mayer into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame.

Clearly, Mayer's involvement was not just at the local and state level, but at the national level as well. He was a longtime political activist and a passionate supporter for Israel. He served on the national board of directors of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC, for over two decades, serving as president of the board from 1990–1992 and as chairman of the board from 1992–1996. He devoted much time to Camp Ramah Darom, a summer camp for Jewish youth in northeast Georgia, and Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, which awarded him an honorary doctorate.

A graduate from Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance in 1953, Mayer also served in the Army as a first lieutenant in the Korean War, where he earned a commendation ribbon with medal pendant for meritorious service.

Madam Speaker, Psalms 24:2 calls to question, "Who will ascend the mountain of the Lord and who will stand in his place of sanctity? One with clean hands and a pure heart."

Let there be no doubt, Mayer Mitchell's manner and goodness truly lived up to that expectation. And for all who truly knew Mayer—and appreciated him for all he was and all he did—we can all take some comfort in knowing that in life, Mayer definitely made a difference. Even in death, his legacy will last for generations.

More than 60 years ago, a young girl wrote a diary that opened the world's eyes to the

horrors of evil and hatred. Even today, Anne Frank remains an inspiration for her simple eloquence and powerful choice of words.

One of my favorite Anne Frank quotes seems to be a fitting epithet for my dear friend, Mayer. She wrote, "How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Madam Speaker, Mayer Mitchell did just that. He waited for no one to tell him what needed to be done; he simply went out, in his own special way, and sewed seeds of hope one good deed at a time.

While it is true that the good works of Mayer Mitchell could fill an entire volume in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, on this day when his family and friends mourn his death, I simply ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering a good and decent man, Mayer Mitchell. May he rest in peace.

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TRIBUTE TO MINNIE VAUTRIN,  
"AMERICAN GODDESS OF MERCY"

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Minnie Vautrin, an American woman and missionary whose heroism changed the course of history during World War II.

Japan's violent occupation of then-capital Nanking, China, historically known as the Rape of Nanking, claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent Chinese men, women and children and left its mark on history as one of the most brutal massacres and crimes against humanity of the 20th Century. An estimated 300,000 Chinese civilians were killed, and an estimated 20,000 women were raped, with some estimates as high as 80,000.

Minnie Vautrin, a missionary who worked at a women's college in Nanking, courageously stood against the Japanese Imperial Army. A native of Illinois, she was one of the few Americans in the region when the Japanese army invaded Nanking.

By using the American flag and proclamations issued by the American Embassy in China maintaining the college as a sanctuary, Minnie helped repel incursions into the college, where thousands of women and children sought protection from the Japanese army. She often risked her own life to defend the lives of thousands of Chinese civilians.

Her devotion during this horrific event earned her the nickname "American Goddess of Mercy" among the people of Nanking, where she is fondly remembered. Her heroic actions and unparalleled efforts to save lives deserve to be recognized. Sadly, her story is relatively unknown.

Today, on the 121st anniversary of her birth, I would like to honor Ms. Vautrin for her sacrifice, courage, humanity, and commitment to peace and justice during the violent Rape of Nanking. Minnie Vautrin's story defines patriotism and heroism in the midst of war.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining me in remembering this phenomenal yet unsung heroine. To the thousands of innocent men, women and children whose lives were spared because of Minnie Vautrin's bold courage, she will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE DEDICATED  
SERVICE OF KATHERINE BROWN

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Katherine Brown for her service to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while working in my Washington, D.C., office.

When Katie came to Capitol Hill from Galatin, Tennessee, earlier this year, she quickly proved to be an able researcher, a strong writer and a hard worker. While she has been with the office only a short time, her diligence and persistence have helped me do my job better.

But love and law school are now calling her home. Today is her last day in the office as Katie is moving back to Middle Tennessee to be with her fiancé, Taylor, while she prepares for law school.

My staff and I are sad to see her leave, but we share her excitement for this new chapter in her life. Katie, I thank you for all your help, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO NABVETS

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS) and offer my salutation to those members attending their Regional Convention in Denver Colorado this November. NABVETS has representatives in several states across the western United States, including my home state of Colorado. It is with the utmost sincerity that I wish this gathering success in discerning avenues to uphold and meet their organizational mission.

Since its founding in 1969, NABVETS has made great strides in community development and advocacy by providing a myriad of services including empowerment of low-income and minority veterans and historical perseverance.

NABVETS has provided support to Colorado communities over the years, and I am proud to support its continued efforts to assist Colorado's veterans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking them for their efforts, and conveying my best wishes for the convention.

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CONGRATULATING MR. GRANT  
SIMPSON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Grant Simpson, a Hidden Lakes Elementary School teacher in Keller, Texas, for being named Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year.